

THE WILSON BULLETIN

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Official Organ of the Wilson Ornithological Club.

Edited by **LYNDS JONES.**

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Editorial

The increasing interest shown in the nesting behavior of birds and the considerable attention given to studies of this sort are indications of a rapid increase in our knowledge of the birds in this important field of inquiry. As the data accumulate and generalizations from them become more and more reliable we predict that light will be thrown on a number of problems which now seem all but hopeless of solution. We hope that the number of competent students of nesting activities will greatly increase the coming summer.

The editor enjoyed the thirty-first stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union which was held in New York City November 11-14, at the American Museum of Natural History. In some respects it was the best meeting which he has been privileged to attend. A larger number of Fellows were in attendance than ever before and the attendance of out-of-town members was gratifying. We were pleased to welcome several, for whom this was their first meeting. There should be a much larger attendance every year. Toward this end it is proposed to hold the 1914 meet-

ing in Washington, D. C., early in April to accommodate many members who cannot attend the November meeting because of school duties at that time. For the first time in the history of the Union the elections of Fellows resulted in filling up that class to the limit of fifty. Five were elected to the class of Members, which is the limit set for any one stated meeting. A large number of Associates were added to the membership. The finances were shown to be in a satisfactory condition. It is to be regretted that it does not now seem feasible to hold meetings of this organization in the interior of the country. The need for such a meeting will be only partly met by the proposed spring meeting at San Francisco in connection with the Panama Exposition in 1915. Members living in the Mississippi Valley might well bestir themselves for inviting the Council to appoint a meeting somewhere in the central part of the country.

So many persons are now interested in birds there is hardly a community where more than one bird student cannot be found. We offer the suggestion of a plan of study which is believed would result in much valuable information. All interested persons in a community arrange for simultaneous study in any selected region, each person studying a different locality. When the work is completed merge the different individual reports into one and study the results. In this way the whole region could be covered in a single day and the status of the bird life in it would be more accurately learned than where all go on a stated excursion together. If such studies could be carried through the year the result should be a more accurate list of the birds of that particular region than could possibly be obtained by one person in any number of years of study. But if such a scheme cannot be worked out for the whole year it should be entirely possible to arrange for such coöperative studies for one day at a time. It might well be tried for some January day to learn of the winter population, and as many days as possible during the spring migration, to determine the relative abundance of species on a given day as well as keeping track of the migrations as a whole. Try it.

A large list of nominations for membership is nearly ready for submission to the members at large. It cannot be printed in this issue of the Bulletin, but will be submitted through the mails a little later.